

NEWS and NOTES

NATIONAL • STATE • COUNTY

ALAMEDA

Survey of need for a general hospital to serve San Leandro and Hayward is being made by a committee representing the Chambers of Commerce of the two cities. Committee members are questioning physicians in the area to determine whether a hospital is needed and how much support might be expected if one is established.

CONTRA COSTA

First local grange to report to the California State Grange that it had signed a majority of membership for participation in California Physicians' Service was Danville Grange No. 85 in Contra Costa County. Reporting 92 per cent of its membership enrolled on May 22, it was closely followed May 27 by the Oakdale Grange in Stanislaus County with 80 per cent, and soon afterward by Diablo Valley Grange in Contra Costa County with 67 per cent participation. Enrollment in other granges continues, with many reporting indications that majority sign-up will be accomplished.

FRESNO

Search for a medical director and superintendent of the Fresno County General Hospital, to fill the post vacated July 1 by the resignation of Dr. H. M. Ginsburg, is being carried forward by the county board of supervisors. Meanwhile, Dr. Ginsburg has offered assistance although he has turned to private practice. The supervisors recently agreed to increase Dr. Ginsburg's salary from \$9,000 a year to \$14,200, apparently in an attempt to keep him in the post which he had held for 15 years.

Dr. Joseph R. Smith, Fresno, has returned after three years' service in the Army Medical Corps to resume his practice as a specialist in urology. In the Army he was in charge of urology clinics in several hospitals.

Dr. William Everett Furze of Fresno and Dr. Fred E. Cooley, formerly of Dinuba, both recently discharged from the Army Medical Corps, have resumed practice with offices in a new medico-dental building in Fresno. Dr. Furze is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He was medical resident at the Fresno County General Hospital from 1938 to 1940, and Dr. Cooley was surgical resident at the same hospital until he entered private practice in Dinuba before the war.

LOS ANGELES

Dr. H. O. Swartout, to prevent impairment of his health, resigned as Los Angeles County health officer June 30 and at the same time recommended consolidation of the city and county health departments with City Health Officer George M. Uhl as head. Studying the consolidation proposal, the County Board of Supervisors is at the same time considering several possible successors to the county post who were suggested by Dr. Swartout. Those suggested are Dr. Harold Chope, San Joaquin District assistant health officer; Dr. Norman

Nelson of the University of California at Los Angeles; Dr. H. C. Pulley, chief assistant city health officer, and Dr. I. O. Church of Santa Barbara County.

Dr. Colby Hall of Los Angeles recently took office in Chicago as vice president of the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society.

Dr. John W. Higgins, after two years as a Naval Medical officer, has returned to private practice in his offices on Whittier Boulevard, Los Angeles.

Dr. Willard Nesson has opened offices in San Marino to resume a practice which he relinquished to serve in the United States Coast Guard Medical Corps for more than three years.

Dr. John G. Staub, former Pomona physician and until recently in the Navy Medical Corps, has begun to practice in Claremont where his offices will be in a building which he purchased a short time ago.

Dr. J. Beckham Marr of Pomona has resumed practice there following his discharge from the Army Medical Corps in May.

A trust fund of \$84,500 for use in research by the staff of 500 doctors who donate time to treating patients in the Los Angeles General Hospital is, in effect, being set up by the doctors themselves.

Money for the fund is coming from billings by the hospital to patients in the "able to pay" class who have been treated there because other hospitals in the vicinity were too crowded to accommodate them.

These billings have the approval of the county board of supervisors. More than \$35,000 has been collected already, and additional funds to bring the total to \$84,500 are expected during the next fiscal year.

Proposed research projects to be paid for by the fund will be submitted to the staff medical advisory board. The staff will not be restricted in its choice of fields for research.

ORANGE

Dr. Harry R. Sickafoose, who formerly practiced in Wilmington, California, has moved to San Clemente where he has opened offices in the Bank of America Building.

SAN BERNARDINO

Dr. Merle Cosand, former Navy officer, has been named health officer for San Bernardino County to succeed Dr. W. W. Fenton who retired July 1. He was recommended to the \$500 a month post by the medical advisory board of the county hospital.

Dr. N. Berwyn Lawrence, following completion of a course in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania, has returned to California where he will continue his studies at White Memorial Hospital, Los Angeles. He plans ultimately to return to practice in Colton, where he was located before entering the Army.

SAN FRANCISCO

Dr. George Pierce of San Francisco was elected president of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons at a conference of that organization in Toronto early in June. He succeeds Dr. John S. Davis of Baltimore.

Sanitary conditions in bars and restaurants was principal topic when San Francisco Grand Jury discussed the city's health problems with Dr. J. C. Geiger, Health Director, in a June meeting. Dr. Geiger told the jury about one-third of these establishments fall below minimum standards and are cited under the health code as fast as violations are discovered. Germ cultures made from swabs taken from dishes, glasses and silverware are the main means of check-up.

Wallet-size cards certifying birth registration, and carrying data useful in identification, proving citizenship and establishing the age of the bearer, have been made available to persons born in San Francisco County.

The cards, issued on application as an alternative to the usual complete copy of the birth certificate, do not include medical details and personal information regarding parents. They are issued by the Department of Public Health on payment of a one-dollar charge, the same fee that is required for issuance of a detailed copy of the birth certificate.

SAN JOAQUIN

Dr. C. V. Thompson, California Medical Association Councillor-at-Large from the Fourth District, has reopened his offices in Lodi. Dr. Thompson had been in the Army from early 1941 until his recent discharge with rank of colonel.

SAN MATEO

Dr. V. H. Heinz is planning to open offices in Burlingame, where he practiced before entering the Navy Medical Corps four and a half years ago.

SANTA CLARA

Dr. E. I. Bartlett has disposed of his share in the South San Francisco General Hospital to Dr. Thomas

McVeagh of Palo Alto, who formerly practiced in Hawaii. Dr. Bartlett will continue to teach in the surgical department of the University of California Medical School and will maintain limited practice in his San Francisco office. Dr. McVeagh will be associated in the hospital with Dr. Wendell H. Musselman and Dr. M. R. Oliva, who also own shares.

Dr. Charles E. Schoff has been named medical house officer at the Palo Alto Hospital, and Dr. William Clinite, a surgeon, also has been added to the resident staff. Plans are to add an obstetrician later. Idea behind the three-man resident staff is to eliminate delay in handling emergency cases and reduce the number of emergency calls the community's physicians in private practice are required to answer.

Recent advances in cell respiration were discussed by Professor John Field of Stanford University's physiology department at a May dinner meeting at Stanford Union, which was attended by 45 physicians interested in anesthesiology as a medical specialty. Dr. Field's paper dealt with advances and anticipated progress in anesthesia, hormone and cancer research. It was discussed by Dr. John Dillon, Army Medical Corps, of Letterman Hospital, and by others at the meeting. The dinner meeting brought together the Northern California branch of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Palo Alto anesthesia research group.

SONOMA

Dr. A. Morse Bowles, Santa Rosa, has been elected to the California Academy of Medicine.

TULARE

Post of health officer for Tulare County, recently resigned by Dr. A. E. Raitt, has been offered to Dr. Walter B. Quisenberry of Lincoln, Nebraska, at a salary of \$6,000 a year. Dr. Quisenberry had applied for the position, asking \$6,600. County supervisors say the applicant qualifies for the post. He received his training at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has served in public health positions in Virginia, Nebraska, the United States Public Health Service and the armed forces.

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INFORMATION

Sickness Unemployment Benefits

Under terms of a new California law, practicing physicians are confronted with the task of certifying the physical or mental condition and the probable duration of illness of persons applying for such certification as a prerequisite to collection of unemployment benefits available to them if they are unemployed because of sickness or injury.

The provision for benefit payments in such cases is contained in a recent amendment to the California Unemployment Insurance Act. Because of alternate provisions for financing the payments, the date when payments will begin is not certain. It may be set earlier than May, 1947, but not later.

Although some burden of paper work as well as professional judgment falls upon the physicians in the certification process, James G. Bryant, chairman of the California Employment Stabilization Commission which administers the law, has promised a minimum of red tape in setting up the administrative structure. In a letter to Dr. Philip K. Gilman, then president of the California Medical Association, Mr. Bryant said the commission will strive for "the least possible burden on the physicians" and that there will be "no interference with their relationships with their patients."